

REMARKS

Rejection of claims 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. §101

The Examiner rejected claims 16-20. Claim 16 was amended and claims 17 and 18 were cancelled to overcome the Examiner's rejection. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Rejection of claims 1-17 and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-17 and 19-20 as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Mizukami. Applicant traverses the Examiner's finding of obviousness of the claims as filed. The cited art individually or in combination does not teach or suggest the claimed invention herein. Applicant believes the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests reconsideration.

Mizukami teaches a node information management system for a communications network communicating between network nodes. Each node has node information that is stored that includes node setting information. The node setting information is data such as transfer processing method and information regarding the user [0006]. Node information is also stored in adjacent nodes such that if node information is lost, it can be restored from adjacent nodes.

In contrast, the claimed invention is concerned with a computer system located in multiple physical enclosures. Each of the enclosures has a non-volatile memory

(NVRAM) that contains information about what buses are located in the enclosure. The claimed invention is directed to bus numbering information stored in the NVRAM for buses located in a different enclosure (apparatus).

Claim 1

The combination of the AAPA and Mizukami does not teach or suggest the invention in claim 1 without hindsight provided by Applicant's disclosure. There is nothing in Mizukami to suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the AAPA in the manner proposed by the Examiner. The combination of Mizukami with the AAPA would merely teach overcoming loss of communication information stored in volatile memory by storing the communication information in adjacent nodes of a communications network. Mizumkami does not teach or suggest anything about storing bus numbering information in non-volatile memory. Mizukami does not teach or suggest storing anything in non-volatile memory. The idea of storing bus numbering information in the non-volatile memory of a coupled computer apparatus is not evident from the combination, this extension of the combination is only evident using hindsight re-construction.

Further evidence of the use of hindsight re-construction is revealed by the level of abstraction the Examiner used to characterize the cited art and the invention. The Examiner's rejection used a "failure event" to find similarities between the cited art and the claimed invention. There is no "failure event" in the claim language. Similarly, the Examiner's rejection uses a "node" to equate a communication node in Mizukami to an apparatus (enclosure of a computer in other claims). These broad characterizations of Mizukami and the claim language only make sense when one is familiar with the Application herein. Since the Examiner's rejections is based on inappropriate hindsight re-construction, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection.

Further, to the extent the combination does teach the claimed invention, there is no motivation to combine the cited art. Mizukami is concerned with preserving node data in a communication system due to a power loss in one node or due to lost packet information. The problem in Mizukami is solved by storing information in volatile memory. The claimed invention is concerned with bus numbering information that is in non-volatile memory. This is not the same concern as shown in Mizukami. The loss of bus numbering information is due to hardware being changed. There is nothing to suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art that the method of preserving data in a volatile memory system of Mizukami would solve the problem of non-volatile memory bus information that is lost due to equipment change. The environment, computer system and problems in Mizukami are completely different than the computer systems, equipment and problems solved by the claimed invention. The precedent is clear that there must be some motivation evident from the cited art to combine references for an obviousness rejection. There is no such motivation evident in Mizukami.

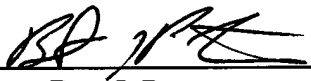
Claims 2-16, 19 and 20

Each of the pending independent claims includes a limitation similar to the one discussed above and is allowable for the reasons stated above. Further, each of the remaining dependent claims are dependent on one of these independent claims, and therefore are also in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In summary, none of the cited prior art, either alone or in combination, teach, support, or suggest the unique combination of features in applicants' claims presently on file. Therefore, applicants respectfully assert that all of applicants' claims are allowable. Such allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if this would in any way advance the prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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